

TO: SENATE ENVIRONMENT AND NATURAL RESOURCES COMMITTEE
FROM: SARAH SELLIN-EILER
RE: SB 835, THE BILL TO STOP HORSE TRIPPING
DATE: April 8th, 2013

Madam Chair Dingfelder and Committee Members, my name is Sarah Sellin-Eiler. I am a small business owner and long time equestrian from Portland, OR in strong support of SB 835. I testified in the previous hearing and would like to reiterate a few points I discussed before.

Horse tripping does exist in Oregon. It is a practice that is abusive, violent and most importantly unnecessary. It breaks my heart to see these horses treated so cruelly. If one was to argue against this bill I would find it hard pressed to come up with reasoning that horses should be roped at a dead gallop and flipped to the ground.

I would like to read an excerpt from a testimony that I turned in from a witness of horse tripping in Cornelius, OR. Martin Hill. He could not be with us today because he had to work.

"One of the trip horses was so badly injured on the back legs that it could no longer run. When they injure horses, they put them away and wait until the rodeo is over and have the person who supply's them (the horses) to come get them when no one is around and take them away. The Orozco's got smart after awhile and would have the injured ones taken away at night while no one was there to see and that way if they were turned in, the horses would not be there."

Another excerpt:

"One of the horses that was badly injured from the ropes on its back legs was going to be taken away... so I wrote my friends up a sales contract and had them buy her for \$1 to make it a cash sale... it's back legs were so swollen that you could not tell where the ankles or knees were. The gashes from the ropes were so bad that it had a massive infection and had puss running down its legs. We had our vet, Steve Vredenberg from Banks veterinary in Banks Oregon, come look at her and treat her. She was lucky and did not ruin the tendons, and with stall rest and medical treatments for several months, she is now a nice looking horse except where the scars are on her legs from the ropes."

If you would all be so kind as to read through his testimony. He discusses exactly how the process worked, where they got the tripping horses from, how they were treated and threats they received from the barn owners if they told anyone. The only reason he is able to come forward now is because he and his wife took their horse and moved stables far away from the Orezco's.

I greatly appreciate that this new bill affirms the right to engage in a rodeo and outlaws horse tripping here in Oregon. Senator Bill Hansell, I would like to thank you personally for your hard work in putting together a bill that protects our horses while keeping the tradition of rodeo intact.

From this process I am taking home a sense of pride. The fact that in the United States we are given the right to fight for something that is inherently wrong. And thereby save those who are the victims. In our case the victims are horses. There is a huge amount of people who consider their horses a family member, a companion and for many an occupation. Please don't let our horses go to waste.

Thank you so much for your time and I'm happy to answer any questions.

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